

Hands of the Future, Inc.: Connecting Youth with Nature

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Board Members

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Hands of the Future, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit in the Greater Lafayette area dedicated to connecting children with nature. Our mission is to cultivate confidence, life skills, well-being, and respect for nature in the children of our community through exploratory play.

We provide equal opportunities for every child, regardless of race, religion or economic background to participate in the benefits of nature. Some scientifically supported benefits to outdoor play include increased academic performance, mental and physical well-being, improved coordination, and communication. We provide both structured and unstructured learning opportunities for Prek-8th grade community youth through our Junior Nature Club evening program, and we are currently looking for land to purchase Indiana's first children's forest. We partner with Dr. Dan Shepardson of Purdue University to encourage student volunteers from his Environmental Education course. We work with Mayflower Mill Elementary to organize their own Junior Nature Club. We are sponsored by local businesses for materials and by the Roy Whistler Foundation for funding. Our Board is made of community members, Purdue students, and retired Purdue employees. We are looking to partner with other organizations to reach more youth and raise awareness of the necessity behind connecting youth with nature.